

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM....

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program is established by Chapter 42-11 of the *General Laws* as the central planning agency for state government. The work of the Program is guided by the State Planning Council, comprised of state, local, and public representatives and federal advisors. The staff component of the Program resides within the Department of Administration.

The objectives of the Program are to plan for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; to coordinate the activities of government agencies and private individuals and groups within this framework of plans and programs; and to provide planning assistance to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the agencies of state government. The Program prepares and maintains the State Guide Plan as the principal means of accomplishing these objectives. The State Guide Plan is comprised of a series of functional elements that deal with physical development and environmental concerns, the economy, and human services.

Program activities are supported by state appropriations and federal grants. Funding for production of this transportation improvement program was provided principally by grants from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. State of Rhode Island general appropriations to the Statewide Planning Program provided additional support. The contents of the document reflect the views of the Statewide Planning Program, which is responsible for the accuracy of the facts and data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation. This publication is based upon publicly-supported research and may not be copyrighted. It may be reprinted, in part or in full, with proper attribution of the source.

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PREFACE

This document is the eighteenth in a series of Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for the State of Rhode Island, prepared by Statewide Planning for adoption by the State Planning Council. It covers the period October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2004, coinciding with federal fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

This TIP was prepared through the efforts of the Council's Transportation Advisory Committee, whose members are listed on page iv, and staff from the Statewide Planning Program and its transportation partner agencies.

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